1 2 3 4	RICHARD D. SCHRAMM (SBN 151696) ADAM S. JURATOVAC (SBN 295763) EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ATTORNEYS 1500 East Hamilton Ave., Ste. 118 Campbell, CA 95008 Tel: (408) 796-7551 Fax: (408) 796-7368			
5	Attorneys for Defendants, JBA Investment Group LLC and Bella Awdisho			
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8	UNITED STATES	S DISTRICT COURT		
9		RICT OF CALIFORNIA		
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12	MADHAV PRASAD MARASINI,	Case No.:		
13	Plaintiff,	<ul><li>NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTION</li><li>TO FEDERAL COURT</li></ul>		
14	V.	) Santa Clara County Superior Court		
15	JBA INVESTMENT GROUP LLC and BELLA AWDISHO,	) Case No: 20CV366582 )		
16	Defendants.	) [28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1441, 1446(a), (b), and (d)]		
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22	TO THE CLERK OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT			
23	OF CALIFORNIA, PLAINTIFF AND HER ATTO	RNEYS OF RECORD:		
24	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendants, JBA Investment Group LLC (hereinafter referred to			
25	as "JBA") and Bella Awdisho (hereinafter referred t	to as "AWDISHO"), through the undersigned		
26	counsel, hereby remove the above-captioned action	from the Superior Court of the State of California for		
27	the County of Santa Clara, to the United States Distr	rict Court for the Northern District of California,		
28	pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332, 1441, and 144	46.		
	Defendants' Notice of Removal to U.S. District Court	1		
II.				

JBA and AWDISHO's Notice of Removal is based upon and supported by the following:

# THE STATE COURT ACTION

- 1. Plaintiff Madhav Prasad Marasini ("Plaintiff") commenced this action against Defendants in Santa Clara County Superior Court, now pending as Case No. 20CV366582. Plaintiff filed his Complaint on May 15, 2020. A true and correct copy of the Summons and Complaint if attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 2. Defendants were served with a copy of the Complaint and Summons, and Civil Case Cover Sheet on or about May 29, 2020. Plaintiff's Complaint includes twelve causes of action alleging: (1) Violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") Disability; (2) Failure to Make Reasonable Accommodation; (3) Failure to Engage in an Interactive Process; (4) Violation of the FEHA Retaliation, (5) Wrongful Discharge in Violation of Public Policy; (6) Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress; (7) Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress; (8) Failure to Pay California Overtime Wages; (9) Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 for Non-Payment of Overtime; (10) Failure to Provide Adequate Meal and Rest Periods; and (11) Failure to Pay All Wages Due at Termination.
- 3. JBA and AWDISHO timely filed a joint Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint in State Court on June 25, 2020. A true and correct copy of JBA and AWDISHO's Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint is attached respectively hereto as Exhibit B.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This is a civil suit brought and now pending in Santa Clara County, California. Venue properly lies in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 84(a), 1391(a) and 1441(a). This case is one that may be removed to this Court by Defendants because it involves a federal question within the jurisdiction of this Court.

# FEDERAL QUESTION JURISDICTION

5. This Court has original jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1331. Specifically, the district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction over all civil actions that pose a federal question, such that the action arises under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. See 28 U.S.C. §1331. "Except as otherwise expressly provided by Act of Congress, any civil

action brought in a State court of which the district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction, may be removed by the defendant or defendants, to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where such action is pending." 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).

6. Plaintiff's Complaint alleges violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 201, et. seq. The FLSA is a federal statute, amended since 1938. Therefore, Defendants may remove this action to this Court pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a) and (c) because the action arises under the FLSA.

# TIMELINESS OF REMOVAL

7. As required by 28 U.S.C. §1446(d), the original Notice was filed within 30 days after Defendants were first served with a copy of the Summons and Complaint.

# NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF AND STATE COURT

- 8. As required by 28 U.S.C. §1446(d), Defendants provided notice of this removal to Plaintiff through his attorney of record.
- 9. As required by 28 U.S.C. §1446(d), a copy of the original Notice of Removal will be filed with the Superior Court of the State of California, for the County of Santa Clara.
- 10. In the event this Court has a question regarding the propriety of this Notice of Removal, Defendants request that it issue an Order to Show Cause so that it may have an opportunity to more fully brief the basis for this removal.

WHEREFORE, Defendants, JBA Investment Group LLC and Bella Awdisho remove the above action to this Court.

DATED: June 25, 2020

ADAM S. JURATOVAC, Esq.
EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ATTORNEYS
Attorneys for Defendants, JBA Investment Group LLC and Bella Awdisho

# **EXHIBIT A**

### E-FILED 5/15/2020 11:47 AM Clerk of Court Alexei Kuchinsky State Bar No. 279405 Superior Court of CA, KUCHINSKY LAW OFFICE, P.C. County of Santa Clara 220 Montgomery Street, Suite 2100 20CV366582 San Francisco, CA 94104 3 Reviewed By: S. Uy (628) 200-0902 Tel.: (628) 200-0907 4 Fax.: Email: ak@kuchinskylawoffice.com 5 Attorney for Plaintiff Madhav Prasad Marasini 6 7 8 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA 9 COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA 10 UNLIMITED JURISDICTION 11 12 CASE NO.: 20CV366582 13 MADHAV PRASAD MARASINI, 14 **COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES** PLAINTIFF, 15 VS. Demand for Jury Trial 16 JBA INVESTMENT GROUP LLC, BELLA 17 AWDISHO, AND DOES 1 THROUGH 10. 18 DEFENDANTS. 19 20 21 22 Plaintiff Madhay Prasad Marasini brings this action against Defendants Bella Awdisho, 23 JBA Investment Group LLC (doing business as "Silicon Valley Corporate Catering" or "SVCC 24 Catering"), and Does 1 through 10, and alleges the following: I. 25 INTRODUCTION 26 This action is brought by Plaintiff Madhav Prasad Marasini ("Plaintiff" or "Marasini") 27 against his former employers Defendants Bella Awdisho, JBA Investment Group LLC, and Does 28 1-10 for disability discrimination in violation of California's Fair Employment and Housing Act 1 **COMPLAINT**

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(FEHA). Plaintiff also seeks to recover unpaid overtime wages caused by Defendants' exempt misclassification.

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#### II. VENUE AND JURISDICTION

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1. It is appropriate for this court to exercise jurisdiction over Defendants because they are residents of and/or doing business in the State of California.

6 7 2. Venue is proper in this Court in accordance with Section 395(a) of the California Code of Civil Procedure because at all relevant times Defendants resided and/or reside in Santa Clara County. Moreover, Defendants employed Plaintiff in Santa Clara County and the harms occurred

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in Santa Clara County.

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3. The damages sought in this matter exceed \$25,000.

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### III. PARTIES

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### A. Plaintiff

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4. Plaintiff Madhav Prasad Marasini ("Plaintiff" or "Marasini") was, at all times mentioned herein, a natural individual, residing in the County of Santa Clara, State of California. At all relevant times herein, Defendants employed Plaintiff in the County of Santa Clara, State of

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California.

5. At all times pertinent, Plaintiff was an "employee," as defined by California Government

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Code Section 12926, part of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, Government Code Sections 12900 *et. seq.* ("FEHA").

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### **B.** Defendants

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# 1. Limited Liability Company Defendant

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Defendant JBA Investment Group LLC is a California Corporation registered with the California

6. Defendant JBA Investment Group LLC, has been doing business in the State of California.

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Secretary of State to do business in California as a Corporation under the same (Entity No.

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201910510212) and doing business in the state of California with its principal place of business in Mountain View, State of California.

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7. At all times pertinent, Defendant JBA Investment Group LLC, and Does 1 through 10 were an "employer," as defined by California Government Code Section 12926, part of the FEHA.

At all times pertinent, Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC, and Does 1 through 10 employed more than five employees in California, which is within the meaning of the California Government Code section 12926.

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# 2. Individual Defendant

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8. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant Bella Awdisho is, and at all times mentioned herein, an individual doing business in the state of California with its principal place of business in the County of Santa Clara, State of California.

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# 9. Plaintiff is informed and believes and upon that alleges that at all times relevant, individual Defendant Bella Awdisho and Does 1 - 10 were persons acting on behalf of JBA Investment

Group LLC, Inc and she violated, or caused to be violated, various provisions of the California

Labor Code ("Labor Code"), including, but not limited, to Part 2, Chapter 1 of the Labor Code,

which regulates hours and days of work in the applicable order of the Industrial Welfare

Commission. Defendant Awdisho also violated Wage Order No. 5, Sections, regulating hours and days of work. Therefore, under Labor Code sections 558 and 558.1, Defendant Awdisho is

personally liable for all alleged violations.

# 3. Doe Defendants

10. The true names and capacities of Defendants Does 1 through 10, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiff, whom, therefore, Plaintiff sues by their fictitious names. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each of those Defendants was in some manner responsible for the events and happenings alleged in this complaint and for Plaintiff's injuries and damages.

# C. Alter Ego Relationship

- 11. On information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that at all relevant times, individual Defendant Bella Awdisho and Does 1 through 10 were and are owners, managers and/or directors of each other, and have such unity of interest among each other, that they have in fact dominated and controlled the operation of JBA Investment Group LLC, did, among other things:
- 12. a) Commingled funds and other assets between corporate funds with their funds and assets for their own convenience and to assist in evading the payment of obligations;

Does 1 through 10 are hereinafter referred to as Defendants.

24. Based on information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that during the relevant employment period, as defined below, Defendants employed Plaintiff. Defendants were joint employers of Plaintiff because they exercised control over the wages, hours, or working conditions of Plaintiff. Based on information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants jointly engaged, suffered, or permitted Plaintiff to work under working conditions described herein. Based on information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that during the relevant employment period, Defendants jointly had control

or the right to control Plaintiff both as to the work done and the manner and means in which Plaintiff's work was performed.

#### IV. EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

25. In accordance with the appropriate regulations, codes, and statutes, including but not limited to the Government Code, Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies by filing timely complaints with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH"). Plaintiff received the "right to sue" letter as to all Defendants. Plaintiff has exhausted all required administrative remedies.

26. All of the acts alleged herein were in the nature of a continuing violation and/or continuing torts. All of the misconduct alleged herein was part of the same continuous pattern of discrimination and harassing practices, and at least some of the misconduct occurred within one year of the date PLAINTIFF filed his claims with the DFEH.

#### V. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

#### A. General Facts

27. Defendants own, operate, and manage a catering company under the fictitious business name "SVCC Catering."

28. From September 2, 2019 to January 14, 2020 ("Employment Period"), Defendants employed Plaintiff as a cook at SVCC Catering in Mountain View, California. Plaintiff's responsibilities, included preparing food, cooking, washing dishes, cleaning bathrooms, and other kitchen related duties. During his employment period, Plaintiff was required to report to Bella Awdisho and kitchen managers.

29. Plaintiff was misclassified as an exempt employee and at the time of his termination, he was paid an annual income of \$85,000.

# B. Facts Relevant to Disability Discrimination

- 30. Plaintiff is a person with a disability or perceived disability and is a member of a protected class under the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") Cal. Govt. Code §12940, et. seq. During the relevant employment period, Plaintiff was suffering from a condition which substantially restricted Plaintiff's ability to pursue major life activities. During the Employment Period, Plaintiff made Defendants aware of his medical condition.
- 31. On or about December 20, 2019, while performing his work duties, Plaintiff fell and fractured one or more of his ribs. Plaintiff felt a strong pain and needed some rest. Plaintiff immediately notified his coworker and the kitchen manager about the injury. Plaintiff also explained to the kitchen manager that he had chest pain and that he wanted to leave earlier. The kitchen manager was skeptical about Plaintiff's injury and made fun of his pain. He asked Plaintiff to show a video of the incident and refused to believe that Plaintiff was in pain. The kitchen manager denied Plaintiff's request to leave earlier, and, instead, authorized Plaintiff to take a 1-hour break. On December 20, 2020. Plaintiff worked a full day.
- 32. Given the kitchen manager's lack of understanding and fearing of losing his job, Plaintiff continued to report to work as scheduled until December 26, 2019, when his pain became unbearable. On or about December 27, 2020, Plaintiff went into an emergency room for examination. After examination, Plaintiff was informed that his rib was fractured, and he needed to rest from work. The doctor approved Plaintiff for a leave of absence from work from December 27, 2019 through January 5, 2020. Plaintiff notified Defendants about his medical condition and his need for a temporary medical leave until January 6, 2020. He also informed Defendants about his intention to come back to work after recovery. Throughout his leave, Plaintiff kept Defendants informed about his intended return date.
- 33. On January 6, 2020, Plaintiff reported back to work, as scheduled. Though Plaintiff was released to work without any restrictions, he still suffered light chest pains and, as a result, he worked at a slower pace compared to his pre-injury work pace. Upon his return, Plaintiff noticed

that the kitchen manager's attitude towards him had changed. For example, the kitchen manager would regularly ask Plaintiff to work quicker, expressing dissatisfaction about Plaintiff's slow work pace. Plaintiff attempted to work quicker but experienced chest pains of which he informed the kitchen manager.

- 34. On January 14, 2020, when Plaintiff came to work, as scheduled, Defendant informed him that he was terminated due to a lack of work.
- 35. During the short period of his employment with Defendants, Plaintiff was a dedicated, hardworking employee. He demonstrated a strong work ethic evidenced by his extremely long work hours. Plaintiff was held in high regard by his co-workers and was praised by Defendant Bella Awdisho as "... amazing part of [the company's] success."

#### C. Facts Relevant to Labor Code Violations.

- 36. Defendants hired Plaintiff as a kitchen chef. According to Defendants' job offer, Plaintiff was classified as an exempt employee. For services provided, Defendants paid Plaintiff an annual salary of approximately \$85,000. Plaintiff regularly worked 5 workdays per week, 13-14 hours per shift, from 2:00 a.m. to 3/4:00 p.m. Occasionally, Plaintiff was required to work during weekends. During holidays, his work hours ranged from 16-17 hours.
- 37. A few months into his employment with Defendants, Plaintiff realized that his job was nothing more than just a kitchen cook with a glorified title of a Chef. Plaintiff was not responsible for or involved in the management of the enterprise in which he or she is employed or of a customarily recognized department or subdivision thereof. Plaintiff did not customarily and regularly direct the work of two or more of Defendants' other employees. Plaintiff had no authority to hire or fire other employees or make suggestions and recommendations as to the hiring or firing and as to the advancement and promotion or any other change of status of other employees. Plaintiff did not customarily and regularly exercise discretion and independent judgment.
- 38. Defendants improperly classified Plaintiff as an exempt employee and denied Plaintiff certain benefits and protections of California Labor Code including overtime, 30-minute meal breaks, 10-minute rest breaks, and itemized wage statements. Defendants knowingly and willingly

and 12965 (collectively referred to as "FEHA"). Defendants are not exempted from the statutes cited in this paragraph by any local, state, or federal laws.

48. At all times herein mentioned, California's Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"), California Government Code sections 12940 *et. seq.*, was in full force and effect and fully binding upon Defendants. Plaintiff was a member of a group protected by the statute, in particular section 12940, prohibiting discrimination in employment based on physical disability and prohibiting discrimination based on Plaintiff being regarded as physically disabled.

49. At all times pertinent, Plaintiff was a person defined as disabled under applicable law. Plaintiff suffers from a condition, a disease, disorder, condition, that (a) affected one or more of the following body systems: neurological, immunological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, hemic and lymphatic, skin and endocrine; and (b) limits an individual's ability to participate in major life activities. Govt. Code § 12926(k)(l).

50. In perpetrating the above-described actions, Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 engaged in a pattern and practice of unlawful discrimination in violation of Govt. Code § 12940(h), and Govt. Code §§ 12920; 12921(a); 12940(a)-(d); 12926(m); 12926(q). At all relevant times herein, and in violation of Cal. Gov. Code § 12940(h), Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 discriminated against Plaintiff by adversely affecting Plaintiff's employment on the basis of disability, and/or Plaintiff's protected status.

- 51. Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-10 knew Plaintiff had a *fractured rib*, a physical disability.
- 52. Plaintiff was able to perform the essential job duties with reasonable accommodations for his condition.
- 53. Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-10 failed to reasonably accommodate Plaintiff's physical disability and instead terminated his employment because Plaintiff had a fractured rib. Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 terminated Plaintiff a few days after Plaintiff came back from a medical leave of absence, a reasonable accommodation. In further violation of Plaintiff's rights, Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 failed

1 to engage in good faith, in an interactive process with Plaintiff when Plaintiff requested to leave 2 earlier on the day he fell at work. In further violation of Plaintiff's rights, Defendants JBA 3 Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 failed to engage in good faith, in an interactive process with 4 Plaintiff when Plaintiff could not meet the kitchen manager's demand to work faster after Plaintiff 5 returned from medical leave. Instead, Defendant JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 6 terminated Plaintiff based on his disability and/or his need for a reasonable accommodation. 54. As a direct result of such discrimination, Plaintiff was harmed. Defendants JBA

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Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5's harassment of Plaintiff and adverse employment actions against Plaintiff were a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's harm.

55. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered, and will continue to suffer, economic loss, including lost earnings, lost earning capacity, lost profits, medical expenses, physical pain and suffering, and extreme and severe mental anguish and emotional distress. Plaintiff is thereby entitled to general and compensatory damages in amounts to be proven at trial.

56. The conduct of Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 as alleged herein was malicious, fraudulent, and/or oppressive, and done with a willful and conscious disregard for Plaintiff's rights and for the harmful consequences of Defendants' actions. Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 acted maliciously, with intent to cause injury to Plaintiff. Defendants' conduct was despicable (would be looked down on and despised by reasonable people) and was done with a willful and knowing disregard of the rights or safety of Plaintiff. Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 were aware of the probable dangerous consequences of their conduct, and deliberately failed to avoid those consequences. Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 acted oppressively, in that their conduct was despicable, and subjected Plaintiff to cruel and unjust hardship in knowing disregard of his rights. Each Defendant authorized, condoned, and ratified the unlawful conduct of each other Defendant. Consequently, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages against each and every Defendant pursuant to California Civil Code Section 3294.

57. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants JBA Investment Group

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1 LLC and Does 1-5 as set forth below. 2 SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION Failure to Make Reasonable Accommodation [Cal. Gov. Code §§ 12940(m)] (Against Defendant JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5) 58. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint. 59. At all times herein mentioned, California's Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"), Cal. Government Code § 12940 et seq., was in full force and effect and fully binding upon Defendants. Plaintiff was a member of a group protected by that statute, in particular section 12940(m), because he had a known physical disability. 60. Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 violated Government Code § 12940(m) because Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 failed to make a reasonable accommodation for Plaintiff's need to take an interim medical leave from work to fully recover from his rib injury; or when Plaintiff requested to leave earlier on the day he fell at work; and when Plaintiff could not meet the kitchen manager's demand to work faster after Plaintiff returned from medical leave. 61. As a direct, foreseeable and proximate result of Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5's unlawful actions, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer substantial losses in earnings and other employment benefits and has incurred other economic losses. 62. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5's unlawful actions, Plaintiff has suffered emotional distress, humiliation, shame, and embarrassment, all to the Plaintiff's damage in an amount to be proven at the time of trial. 63. Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 committed the acts herein despicably, maliciously, fraudulently, and oppressively, with the wrongful intention of injuring

to recover punitive damages from Defendants in an amount according to proof.

Plaintiff, from an improper and evil motive amounting to malice, and in conscious disregard of

Plaintiff's rights to be free from discrimination on the basis of disability. Plaintiff is thus entitled

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As a direct and proximate result of Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5's

actions, Plaintiff has incurred, and will continue to incur loss of compensation, benefits, earning

a) Failing to take appropriate and sufficient correct action to stop the discrimination in

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27 28 employment or prevent any similar misconduct from occurring in the future;

- b) Subjecting Plaintiff to adverse working conditions;
- c) Refusing to accommodate Plaintiff's disability;
- d) Refusing to engage in the interactive process to accommodate Plaintiff's disabilities; and
- e) Terminating Plaintiff's employment with false and discriminatory reasons.
- 79. Plaintiff is informed and believes that in addition to the practices enumerated in this Cause of Action, Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 have engaged in other retaliatory practices which are not fully known by Plaintiff. The above enumerated acts of retaliation are not meant to be exhaustive, but merely exemplary of the kinds of acts of retaliation against Plaintiff.
- 80. Defendants, by refusing to take action to abate the offensive and continuing discriminatory and/or harassing conduct of each of the other Defendants, acted and/or failed to act and/or attempted to act in such a way as to aid, abet, incite, compel and/or coerce each of the other Defendants in doing such acts prohibited by the FEHA, as alleged above.
- 81. The aforementioned conduct of Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 constitutes a continuing violation of Plaintiff's rights from the first act to the latest action.
- 82. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer humiliation, embarrassment, mental and emotional distress and discomfort, all to Plaintiff's damage in an amount in excess of the minimum jurisdiction of this court, the precise amount to be proven at trial.
- 83. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5's unlawful actions as described above, Plaintiff has incurred, and will continue to incur medical expenses, loss of deferred compensation, loss of equity, benefits, earning capacity, wages, opportunities for employment and advancement, and work experience, all to his damage in an amount according to proof.
- 84. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the conduct of Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 was grossly intentional, negligently reckless, willful, wanton, malicious, oppressive and/or unmindful of obligations to Plaintiff and/or exhibits that

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Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5 was grossly intentional, negligently reckless, willful,

91. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the conduct of Defendants JBA

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**Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress** 

#### 1 (Against Defendant JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5) 2 99. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein the preceding paragraphs 3 of this Complaint. 4 100. The conduct set forth herein above by Defendants was extreme and outrageous. 5 Said conduct was intended to cause and did cause severe emotional distress or was done in 6 conscious disregard of the probability of causing such distress. 101. 7 As a proximate result of said conduct, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer 8 discomfort, anxiety, humiliation and emotional distress, and will continue to suffer serious 9 emotional distress in the future in an amount according to proof. 10 102. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the wrongful acts and/or conduct alleged herein which was perpetrated by Defendants was done maliciously, oppressively, and/or 11 12 fraudulently and with a wrongful intent of harming and injuring Plaintiff and did in fact harm Plaintiff with an improper and evil motive amounting to malice and in conscious disregard of 13 Plaintiff rights. As a result, Plaintiff is entitled to recover punitive damages against Defendants, 14 and each of them, as allowable under law. 15 16 103. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as set forth below. EIGHT CAUSE OF ACTION 17 Failure to Pay California Overtime Wages 18 19 (Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, 1198 and Wage Order 5-2001 20 (Against All Defendants) 21 104. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint. 22 23 105. At all relevant times, Defendants were employers subject to California Labor Code section 510 and California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 5-2001, which include 24 25 provisions setting forth the definition of overtime and the amount of compensation to be paid to an 26 employee that works overtime. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was a non-exempt employee of Defendants under 27 106.

California law.

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institutions or businesses which employ persons involved in interstate commerce and whose

29 U.S.C. § 203(s) states that the provisions of the FLSA applies to all entities,

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paragraphs of this Complaint.

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annual gross volume of sales is not less than \$500,000.

- 115. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that at all relevant times, each Defendant has been, and continues to be, an "employer" engaged in interstate "commerce" and or in the production of "goods" for "commerce," within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 USC § 203. At all relevant times, Defendants have employed Plaintiff. At all relevant times, Defendants have had gross operating revenues in excess of \$500,000.
- 116. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff's employment with Defendants was subject to the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201, et seq. ("FLSA") by virtue of Defendants' direct involvement in interstate commerce.
- 117. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants are an "enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce" as those terms are defined in the statute and as interpreted by courts, and therefore Defendants are subject to, and must comply with, the provisions of the FLSA. Further, during the Employment Period, Plaintiff used interstate instrumentalities of commerce as a regular and recurrent part of his employment duties.
- 118. 29 U.S.C. § 207, requires all employees to be paid overtime compensation for work performed in excess of forty (40) hours per week, unless specifically exempted by the law.
- Although Plaintiff was not exempt during his employment with Defendants, Defendants knowingly caused and permitted Plaintiff to regularly work in excess of forty (40) hours per week without paying Plaintiff one and one half (1 ½) times Plaintiff's regular rate of pay. Defendants were fully aware of the hours worked by and the duties assigned to Plaintiff.
- 120. By not paying overtime compensation in compliance with the FLSA, Defendants violated Plaintiff's rights under 29 U.S.C. §§ 201, et seq.
- Defendants intentionally failed to provide to Plaintiff overtime compensation, and thus Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for overtime compensation and liquidated damages in an amount equal to unpaid overtime compensation, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) of the FLSA.
- 122. Plaintiff was required to retain an attorney for bringing this action and is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

123. Plaintiff seeks damages in the amount of his respective unpaid overtime compensation, and liquidated damages, attorney's fee and cost, as provided by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 216(b), 255 and such other legal and equitable relief as the Court deems just and proper.

#### TEN CAUSE OF ACTION

# Failure to Provide Adequate Meal and Rest Periods Cal. Lab. Code § 512, 226.7, 1194 and Wage Order 5-2001 (Against All Defendants)

- 124. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 125. Defendants, at all relevant times, were employers subject to California Labor Code section 512 and California Industrial Welfare commission Wage Order 5-2001, which include provisions requiring Defendants to provide meal and rest periods to Plaintiff.
- 126. At all times alleged herein, Plaintiff was a non-exempt employee of Defendants under California law.
- 127. California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 5-2001provides that no employer shall employ any person for a work period of more than five (5) hours without providing a meal period at least 30 minutes and that no employer shall employ any person for a work period of more than ten (10) hours without providing a second meal period of at least 30 minutes.
- 128. California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 5-2001also provides that every employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period. The authorized rest period time shall be based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) hours or major fraction thereof.
- Labor Code section 226.7 and the applicable Wage Orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission provide that if an employer fails to provide a non-exempt employee with an appropriate off duty meal period, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that the meal period is not provided. If an employer fails to provide an employee a rest period in accordance with the Order, the employer

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at the conclusion of this Complaint.

alleged herein, Plaintiff has suffered actual damages in an amount set forth in the Prayer for Relief

As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions

alleged herein, Plaintiff has suffered actual damages in an amount subject to proof at trial. 1 2 **ELEVEN CAUSE OF ACTION** 3 Failure to Pay All Wages Due at Termination 4 (Cal. Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203) 5 (Plaintiff Against All Defendants) 6 135. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein the preceding 7 paragraphs of this Complaint. 8 136. Labor Code section 202 provides that an employer is required to provide an employee who resigns with all unpaid wages within 48 hours of resignation. Under Labor Code 10 section 203, if an employer willfully fails to pay such wages, for every day that final wages or any 11 part of the final wages remain unpaid, the employer is liable for a penalty equivalent to the 12 employee's daily wage, for a maximum of 30 days. Defendants terminated Plaintiff's employment on January 14, 2020. Defendants, 13 137. 14 however, as described above, willfully failed and refused to pay Plaintiff all accrued wages owed, including unpaid overtime, on the day of his termination, as required under California Labor Code 15 16 section 201. Since the date of Plaintiff's termination, Plaintiff has been available and ready to 17 138. 18 receive the wages due and owing Plaintiff. Plaintiff has not refused to receive any payment from 19 Defendants. 20 139. Defendants' failure to pay the wages due and owing Plaintiff were willful in that 21 Plaintiff has made a demand for this payment but Defendants have refused to pay any portion of 22 the amount due and owing Plaintiff. 23 140. Defendants' willful failure to pay Plaintiff's wages constitutes a violation of Labor Code section 203 that provides that an employee's wages will continue as a penalty until paid up to 24 25 30 days from the time the wages were due. Therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to a penalty in the 26 amount of his daily wage rate multiplied by 30 days. 27 141. Pursuant to Labor Code section 1194, Plaintiff requests the court to award Plaintiff' 28 reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action.

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### TWELVE CAUSE OF ACTION

# Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements and Maintain Adequate Records Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226 & 1174 and Wage Order 5-2001

# (Plaintiff Against All Defendants)

- Plaintiff incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 226 and 1174, and the record keeping provisions of Wage Order 5-2001, ¶ 7, all employers are required to maintain accurate records of each employee's hours of work and meal breaks each workday for a period of at least three (3) years, and provide to each employee with accurate, periodic wage payments in writing setting forth, among other things: (a) the dates of labor for which payment of wages is made; (b) the total hours of work for the pay period; (c) the applicable rates of pay for all hours worked; (d) gross and net wages paid, as well as all authorized deductions from those wages; and (e) the name and address of the employer.
- Defendants have knowingly failed to comply with California Labor Code section 226 by, among other things: (a) failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements in writing showing all applicable rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by Plaintiff; (b) failing to show the dates of labor for which payments are or were being made; and (c) failing to provide complete and/or accurate information concerning deductions that are or have been taken from the Plaintiff's wages.
- 145. California Labor Code section 226(e) further provides that any employee suffering injury due to a willful violation of the aforementioned obligations may collect the greater of either actual damages or \$50 for the first inadequate pay statement and \$100 for each inadequate statement thereafter. During the course of Plaintiff' employment, Defendants consistently failed to provide Plaintiff with adequate pay statements as required by California Labor Code section 226.
- 146. Defendants failed to provide such adequate statements willingly and with full knowledge of his obligations under section 226. Defendants' failure to provide such adequate statements has caused injury to the Plaintiff in that Plaintiff was not able to calculate his overtime.

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147. Plaintiff is entitled to recover the greater of actual damages or penalties as a result of Defendants' failure to provide proper records, in the amount set forth in the prayer at the conclusion of this complaint. Plaintiff incurred costs and attorney fees in bringing this action, and such costs and attorney fees should be awarded to Plaintiff under California Labor Code §226

### VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against all Defendants as follows:

### AS TO THE FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH, AND FIFTH CAUSES OF ACTION

- a. For compensatory and general damages against in an amount according to proof, including back pay, front pay, past and future damages for emotional and mental distress, and past and future medical costs and expenses against Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5. For purposes of default and prove-up hearing, Plaintiff's damages for these causes of action shall be \$80,000;
- b. For prejudgment and post-judgment interest against all Defendants according to any applicable provision of law, according to proof.
- c. Reasonable attorney's fees and the costs of this suit against all Defendants under to California Government Code Section 12965(b); and California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1021.5;
- d. For punitive damages pursuant to California Civil Code Section 3294 against Defendants
   JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5; and
- e. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

# AS TO THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

- f. For general damages against all Defendants in an amount according to proof, including back pay, front pay, past and future damages for emotional and mental distress, and past and future medical costs and expenses against Defendants JBA Investment Group LLC and Does 1-5. For purposes of default and prove-up hearing, Plaintiff's damages for these causes of action shall be \$80,000;
- g. For punitive damages pursuant to California Civil Code Section 3294 against all Defendants;

- h. For prejudgment and post-judgment interest according to any applicable provision of law, according to proof; and
- i. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

#### AS TO THE EIGHTH AND NINETH CAUSES OF ACTION

- For compensatory damages against all Defendants in the amount to be proven at trial representing the unpaid amount of compensation owed to Plaintiff for the overtime wage pursuant to Labor Code sections 1194 and 510. For purposes of default and prove-up hearing, Plaintiff's damages for unpaid overtime shall be \$40,000;
- For liquidated damages against all Defendants pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 216(b) and Labor Code section 1194.2 against all Defendants in the amount to be proven at trial. For purposes of default and prove-up hearing, Plaintiff's liquidated damages shall be \$40,000;
- For prejudgment and post-judgment against all Defendants interest according to any applicable provision of law, according to proof.
- 4. Reasonable attorney's fees and the costs of this suit against all Defendants under Labor Code sections 1194, 218.5, and 29 U.S.C. §§ 216(b); and
- 5. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

# AS TO THE TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

- For compensatory damages against all Defendants in the amount to be proven at trial, representing the amount of unpaid compensation owed to Plaintiff for inadequate meal and rest periods pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7 and 512 and Wage Order No. 5-2001. For purposes of default and prove-up hearing, Plaintiff's damages for this cause of action shall be \$8,000;
- 2. For prejudgment and post-judgment interest against all Defendants according to any applicable provision of law, according to proof;
- 3. Reasonable attorney's fees and the costs of this suit against all Defendants under Labor Code sections 1194, 218.5, and 29 U.S.C. §§ 216(b); and

	11				
1	4. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.				
2	AS TO THE ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION				
3	1.	1. For waiting time penalties provided by Labor Code section 203 against all			
4		Defendants according to proof. In the event of default and for purposes of a default			
5		prove	prove-up hearing this amount shall be \$10,000;		
6	AS TO THE	E TWELFTH CAUSE OF ACTION			
7		1.	For the statutory amount	ts against all Defendants provided by Labor Code	
8	section 226(e	e) accor	ding to proof. In the event	of default and for purposes of a default prove-up	
9	hearing this st	atutory	amounts will be capped a	at \$4,000;	
10		2.	For reasonable attorney	's fees and costs of suit pursuant to Lab. Code	
11	§226(e), and				
12		3.	For any other and further relief that the court considers proper.		
13					
14	Dated:		May 14, 2020	KUCHINSKY LAW OFFICE, P.C.	
15					
16				BYA	
17				Alexei Kuchinsky Attorney for Plaintiff Madhav Marasini	
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# VII. **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable. May 14, 2020 Dated: KUCHINSKY LAW OFFICE, P.C. BYAlexei Kuchinsky Attorneys for Plaintiff Madhav Marasini

SUM-100

# SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

JBA INVESTMENT GROUP LLC, BELLA AWDISHO, AND DOES 1 THROUGH 10.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

MADHAV PRASAD MARASINI

FOR COURT USE ONLY (SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

E-FILED 5/15/2020 11:47 AM Clerk of Court Superior Court of CA, County of Santa Clara 20CV366582 Reviewed By: S. Uy

Envelope: 4342979

CASE NUMBER

20CV366582

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta, Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.goy), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara

191 N 1st St. San Jose, CA 95113

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Alexei Kuchinsky, Kuchinsky Law Office, P.C. 220 Montgomery Street, Suite 2100 San Francisco, CA 94104

(Fecha) 5/15/2020 11:47	M Clerk of Court	Clerk, by S. U. (Secretario)	/
(For proof of service of this sumr	ions, use Proof of Service of	Summons (form POS-010	).)
(Para prueba de entrega de esta	citatión use el formulario Prod	of of Service of Summons,	(POS-010)).
SEAL OF	NOTICE TO THE PERSON S  1. as an individual defe 2. as the person sued u		f (specify):
	on behalf of (specify)	.; JBA INVESTMENT G	ROUP LLC

4. \_\_\_\_ by personal delivery on (date):

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Page 1 of 1

Deputy (Adjunto)

CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation)

CCP 416.40 (association or partnership) [

other (specify): Limited Liability Company - California Corporation Code 17061

CCP 416.70 (conservatee)

CCP 416.90 (authorized person)

# Case 5:20-cv-04235-NC Document 1 Filed 06/25/20 Page 33 of 41

20CV366582 Santa Clara – Civil

ATTACHMENT CV-5012 S. Uy

# CIVIL LAWSUIT NOTICE

Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara 191 North First St., San José, CA 95113 CASE NUMBER: 20CV366582

# PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE FORM

<u>PLAINTIFF</u> (the person suing): Within 60 days after filing the lawsuit, you must serve each Defendant with the <u>Complaint</u>, <u>Summons</u>, an <u>Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Information Sheet</u>, and a copy of this <u>Civil Lawsuit Notice</u>, and you must file written proof of such service.

#### **DEFENDANT** (The person sued): You must do each of the following to protect your rights:

- 1. You must file a **written response** to the *Complaint, using the proper legal form or format,* in the Clerk's Office of the Court, within **30 days** of the date you were served with the *Summons* and *Complaint*;
- 2. You must serve by mail a copy of your written response on the Plaintiff's attorney or on the Plaintiff if Plaintiff has no attorney (to "serve by mail" means to have an adult other than yourself mail a copy); and
- 3. You must attend the first Case Management Conference.

Warning: If you, as the Defendant, do not follow these instructions, you may automatically lose this case.

**RULES AND FORMS:** You must follow the California Rules of Court and the Superior Court of California, County of <\_CountyName\_> Local Civil Rules and use proper forms. You can obtain legal information, view the rules and receive forms, free of charge, from the Self-Help Center at 201 North First Street, San José (408-882-2900 x-2926).

- State Rules and Judicial Council Forms: <a href="www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms">www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms</a> and <a href="www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms">www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms</a> and <a href="www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms">www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms</a> and <a href="www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms">www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms</a>
- Local Rules and Forms: http://www.sccsuperiorcourt.org/civil/rule1toc.htm

<u>CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (CMC):</u> You must meet with the other parties and discuss the case, in person or by telephone at least 30 calendar days before the CMC. You must also fill out, file and serve a *Case Management Statement* (Judicial Council form CM-110) at least 15 calendar days before the CMC.

You or your attorney must appear at the CMC. You may ask to appear by telephone - see Local Civil Rule 8.

Your Case Management Judge is: Kulka	rni, Sunil R	Department: 8	
The 1st CMC is scheduled for: (Completed by Clerk of Court)			
Date: 9/15/20	20 Time: 2:15pm	in <b>Department</b> : 8	
The next CMC is scheduled for: (Complete	ed by party if the 1st CMC was	continued or has passed)	
Date:	Time:	in Department:	

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR): If all parties have appeared and filed a completed ADR Stipulation Form (local form CV-5008) at least 15 days before the CMC, the Court will cancel the CMC and mail notice of an ADR Status Conference. Visit the Court's website at <a href="www.sccsuperiorcourt.org/civil/ADR/">www.sccsuperiorcourt.org/civil/ADR/</a> or call the ADR Administrator (408-882-2100 x-2530) for a list of ADR providers and their qualifications, services, and fees.

WARNING: Sanctions may be imposed if you do not follow the California Rules of Court or the Local Rules of Court.

CV-5012 REV 08/01/16

# **EXHIBIT B**

	II .			
1 2 3 4 5	RICHARD D. SCHRAMM (SBN 151696) ADAM S. JURATOVAC (SBN 295763) EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ATTORNEYS 1500 E. Hamilton Ave., Ste. 118 Campbell, California 95008 Tel: (408) 796-7551 Fax: (408) 796-7368  Attorneys for Defendants, JBA Investment			
6	Group LLC and Bella Awdisho			
7				
8	SUPERIOR COUF	RT OF CALIFORNIA		
9	COUNTY OF	SANTA CLARA		
10	UNLIMITED	JURISDICTION		
11	-00000-			
12	MADHAV PRASAD MARASINI,	Case No. 20CV366582		
13	Plaintiff,			
14	v.	DEFENDANT JBA INVESTMENT GRO LLC AND BELLA AWDISHO'S ANSWE		
15	JBA INVESTMENT GROUP LLC, BELLA AWDISHO, AND DOES 1 THROUGH 10.	PLAINTIFF'S UNVERIFIED COMPLAI		
16	Defendants.	Action Filed: May 15, 2020		
17	Defendants.	Trial Date: TBD		
18				
19				
20	Defendant JBA INVESTMENT GROUP LLC, a California Corporation ("JBA"), and Defendant			
21	BELLA AWDISHO ("AWDISHO"), or collectively referred to herein as "Defendants," hereby answer			
22	the unverified Complaint of Plaintiff MADHAV PRASAD MARASINI ("Plaintiff" or "MARASINI"),			
23	and each and every cause of action alleged therein, as follows:			
24	GENERAL DENIAL			
25	Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 431.30,	Defendants deny, generally, each and every		
26	allegation contained in the unverified Complaint. Defendants also specifically deny Plaintiff has been			
27	damaged at all or in any sum whatsoever, or that Plaintin	ff is entitled to the relief requested, or any other		
28	relief. Defendants deny Plaintiff sustained any injury, da	mage, or loss, if any, by reason of any act,		
	Defendants Answer To Unverified Complaint	Case No.: 20CV366582	PAGE 1	
	Determents This wer to Onvermed Complaint	C450 11011 200 1500502	LLICILI	

1 omission, or negligence on the part of Defendant, or any agent, servant or employee of Defendant, 2 3 AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES 4 Without admitting any of the conduct alleged by Plaintiff, or assuming any burden of proof. 5 Defendants assert the following affirmative defenses to the unverified Complaint, and each and every cause of action contained therein. 6 7 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - ONE** 8 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which 9 relief may be granted against these Defendants. 10 AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - TWO 11 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiffs' claims for penalties under the California 12 Labor Code, including, without limitation, Labor Code § 203, are barred, because a good faith dispute 13 existed as to Defendants' obligations under any applicable Labor Code provision, and a bona fide 14 dispute existed as to whether further compensation is actually due to Plaintiff and, if so, the amount of 15 such compensation. 16 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - THREE** 17 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff's claims are barred by the applicable statute of limitations. 18 19 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - FOUR** As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff was paid all compensation due and owing 20 21 in full, and therefore, Defendants are released from any obligation to Plaintiff. 22 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - FIVE** 23 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff has failed to demonstrate Plaintiff is a 24 qualified person, so as to be protected by the Fair Employment & Housing Act. 25 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - SIX** 26 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff is estopped in whole or in part from 27 asserting the claimed alleged. 28 11 Case No.: 20CV366582

1 AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - SEVEN 2 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part by 3 the doctrine of waiver. 4 AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - EIGHT 5 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff's claims regarding the "alter ego" operation of the LLC are factually inaccurate and fail to provide a cause of action based on this theory. 6 7 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - NINE** 8 As an affirmative defense, Defendants at all times relevant to Plaintiff's claims, acted in 9 conformity with applicable law, regulation, and policy. 10 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - TEN** 11 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff's claims are barred by the doctrine of unclean hands. 12 13 AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - ELEVEN As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert a third party other than Defendants may be liable for 14 15 any damages to Plaintiff, either by contract, by law, or by indemnity provisions. AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - TWELVE 16 17 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff's claims are barred because Defendants acted reasonably and in good faith at all times based on all relevant facts and circumstances known by it. 18 19 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - THIRTEEN** 20 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff's claims are barred because Plaintiff's 21 Complaint fails to state facts sufficient to support a claim for general, compensatory, special and/or 22 economic damages. 23 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - FOURTEEN** 24 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert that if Plaintiff did suffer or sustain any loss, 25 damage, or injury, some other party was the cause of any such loss, damage, or injury, and Plaintiff has failed to join an indispensable party whose absence either deprives the court of determining complete 26 27 relief among the existing parties, or as a practical matter impairs or impedes a person's interests. 28

Case No.: 20CV366582

PAGE 3

Defendants Answer To Unverified Complaint

27

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# **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - FIFTEEN**

As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff's claims as pleaded, are uncertain.

# **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - SIXTEEN**

As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff failed to state facts sufficient to support an award of attorneys' fees and costs against Defendants.

# **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - SEVENTEEN**

As an affirmative defense, Defendants are informed and believe that further investigation and discovery will reveal, and on that basis allege, that any monies owed to Plaintiff has been paid in full and any obligations they may have owed to Plaintiffs have been paid or otherwise satisfied in full.

### **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - EIGHTEEN**

As an affirmative defense, Defendants are entitled to a set-off for any benefits, awards or judgments Plaintiff receives or has received from workers' compensation, unemployment insurance compensation, and/or from any of Defendants' benefit plans, or from other employers, or governmental benefits for injuries or damages alleged, against any award of damages to Plaintiff in this action.

# **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - NINETEEN**

As an affirmative defense, Defendants performed all legal obligations owed to Plaintiff, and exercised ordinary case, caution, prudence, and good faith to avoid any alleged loss to Plaintiff.

#### **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - TWENTY**

As an affirmative defense, Defendants paid all wages to Plaintiff except for those caused by Plaintiff's own actions in concealing his hours worked, so that the "concealed hours" doctrine bars Plaintiff's recovery for such unknown and/or unrecorded hours.

#### **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - TWENTY ONE**

As an affirmative defense, Defendants were entitled to an overtime exemption with respect to any of Plaintiff's overtime hours, and Plaintiff himself caused his work functions to be performed in such a way as to void the application of that exemption.

#### AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - TWENTY TWO

As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert Plaintiff's claims are frivolous, unreasonable, and/or without foundation so that Defendants may recover their costs and fees incurred in this action.

1 AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE - TWENTY THREE 2 As an affirmative defense, Defendants assert the punitive damages Plaintiff requests in this 3 matter are unconstitutional and/or deny Defendants due process and/or are barred by various doctrines. 4 5 **PRAYER** 6 WHEREFORE, Defendants pray for judgment as follows: 7 That the Complaint be dismissed with prejudice; 1. 8 2. That Plaintiff take nothing by way of the Complaint; 9 3. That the Court enter judgment in favor of Defendants; 10 4. That the Court award Defendants its respective costs and expenses; and 5. 11 That the Court award such further relief as it deems just and proper. 12 13 Respectfully, 14 Dated: June 25, 2020 15 RICHARD D. SCHRAMM, Esq. ADAM S. JURATOVAC, Esq. EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ATTORNEYS 16 17 Attorneys for Defendants, JBA Investment Group LLC and Bella Awdisho 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 Defendants Answer To Unverified Complaint Case No.: 20CV366582 PAGE 5

	RICHARD D. SCHRAMM (SBN 151696) ADAM S. JURATOVAC (SBN 295763) EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ATTORNEYS 1500 E. Hamilton Ave., Ste. 118 Campbell, California 95008 Tel: (408) 796-7551 Fax: (408) 796-7368  Attorneys for Defendants, JBA Investment Group LLC and Bella Awdisho
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
g	COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
10	UNLIMITED JURISDICTION
11	-00000-
12	)
13	}
14	1
15	AWDISHO, AND DOES 1 THROUGH 10. PROOF OF SERVICE
16 17	Defendants.
18	}
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	Proof of Service Case No. 20CV366582

	PROOF OF SERVICE
	I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of Santa Clara County. I am over the age of 18
	years and not a party to the within cause of action. My business address is 1500 E. Hamilton Avenue,
	4 Suite 118, Campbell, CA 95008. June 24, 2020, I served a copy of the document described as:
	Defendants' JBA Investments Group LLC and Bella Awdisho's Answer To Plaintiff's Unverified Complaint
	The above-described documents were served on the following:
8	Alexei Kuchinsky.
9	ak@kuchinskylawoffice.com
10	Kuchinsky Law Office, P.C.
11	Attorneys for Plaintiff, Madhav Prasad Marasini
12 13	(By Mail) I caused such envelope(s) with postage fully prepaid to be placed in the U.S. Mail at
14 15	[X] [By Electronic Mail] I caused an electronic mail copy of said document(s) to be transmitted to the recipient's previously designated electronic mail address.
16	[ ] (By Certified Mail) I caused such envelope(s) with postage fully prepaid, return receipt requested, to be placed in the United States Mail at San Jose, CA.
17 18	[ ] (By Overnight Courier) I caused such envelope(s) to be picked up for guaranteed next day delivery by
19	[ ] (By Hand/Personal Service) I personally served such document(s) by hand to the person(s) at the address herein above named.
20	[] (By Facsimile) I caused said document to be sent to the Fax Machine number indicated above,
21	by Fax Machine No. (408) 295-5008 which machine complies with Rule 2003(3) of the California Rules of Court and no error was reported by the machine. Pursuant to Rule 2005(I) I
22	caused the machine to print a transmission record, a copy of which is maintained in our office.
23	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is
24	true and correct and that this declaration was executed on June 25, 2020
25	Callenne Clar
26	ADAM S. JURATOVAC
27	
28	
	Proof of Service Case No. 20CV366582 Page 1